



Your Military Medicare Program

If you are presently a "dual-eligible" beneficiary of the Military Health System, you may now be eligible to receive most of your health care at a nearby military treatment facility (MTF) under a demonstration program called TRICARE Senior Prime. A dual-eligible beneficiary is someone who is eligible for Medicare on the basis of age, and is also eligible for care within a military treatment facility.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 has extended TRICARE Senior Prime through December 31, 2001.

What Is TRICARE Senior Prime?

TRICARE Senior Prime is a program designed to better serve the medical needs of military retirees, dependents, and survivors who are age 65 and over.

This program is offered at select sites across the country, and provides enrollees with all of the benefits available under Medicare, plus additional benefits under TRICARE Prime that are now available to other eligible retired military beneficiaries under age 65.

Improved Access to Health Care



Enrollees in TRICARE Senior Prime are guaranteed access to primary health care services from a military treatment facility. Enrollees are also guaranteed access to specialty care services at military treatment facilities, or from civilian network providers.

Obtaining appointments for primary care is easier. An appointment for more urgent health care needs will be provided within one day. Routine visits will be within one week. Appointments for wellness and specialty care – such as pap smears, mammograms, or other diagnostic tests – will be given within four weeks.

How Can I Learn More About TRICARE Senior Prime?

You can learn more about TRICARE Senior Prime by contacting your local TRICARE Service Center at the number below for more information about the program and any upcoming educational meetings in your area.

You may request an application for enrollment and brochure from the TRICARE Service Center. The brochure and application provide additional information about TRICARE Senior Prime.

For additional information, call:

Colorado Springs, CO
1-800-371-6489
1-800-659-2656 TTY

Dover AFB, DE
1-888-999-5391
1-800-735-2258 TTY

Madigan Army Medical Center, WA
1-800-979-9667
1-800-833-6386 TTY

San Diego, CA
1-800-979-9620
1-888-877-5378 TTY

San Antonio, TX
1-800-937-6093
1-800-735-2989 TTY

Fort Sill, OK
1-800-937-6093
1-800-722-0353 TTY

Sheppard AFB, TX
1-800-937-6093
1-800-735-2989 TTY

Keesler AFB, MS
1-800-625-0211
1-800-582-2233 TTY

Managing Your Health

After Retirement



TRICARE Senior Prime emphasizes keeping an enrollee healthy, not just treating an illness. That is why preventive care is stressed. Each participating MTF offers a variety of preventive and wellness services in addition to primary and specialty care. When MTF providers are not available, you will be referred to TRICARE civilian network providers.



Primary Care Manager

A Primary Care Manager is an enrollee's principal health care provider at a military treatment facility. The Primary Care Manager is most often a team of providers, but may be an individual physician assistant, or nurse practitioner. The Primary Care Manager provides or arranges all of an enrollee's health care services with the following exceptions:

- emergency services anywhere;
- urgently needed services when you are absent from your TRICARE Senior Prime service area, or inside your covered service area and seen by a non-plan physician or facility because of unusual and extraordinary circumstances;
- renal dialysis services provided while you are temporarily out of the service area;
- post-stabilization care for pre-approved (or deemed approved) services from non-contracting providers;
- ancillary tests ordered by your Primary Care Manager or for ancillary services rendered as part of an authorized specialty evaluation or treatment;
- network pharmaceutical services, to include both retail and mail order;
- access to a women's health specialist for routine and preventative health care services provided as a basic benefit;
- influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations; and
- the first eight mental health outpatient visits.

Exceptions (a) through (e) may be received from network or non-network providers. Exceptions (f) through (i) must be received from network providers only. If you obtain services from network or non-network providers other than for these exceptions, without authorization, neither TRICARE Senior Prime nor Medicare will pay for that care.

National Mail Order Pharmacy

Enrollees have the convenience of receiving prescription drugs at home through the National Mail Order Pharmacy.

Specialty Services



For specialty services, the Primary Care Manager will refer an enrollee to a specialist at the military treatment facility. If the specialty care needed is not available at the military treatment facility, the enrollee will be referred to a civilian provider — generally a provider in the TRICARE network.

What Will It Cost Me?

All enrollees in TRICARE Senior Prime must have Medicare Part A and Part B, and continue to have Part B premiums deducted from their Social Security check. However, TRICARE Senior Prime enrollees pay:

- no enrollment fees;
- no cost shares for military treatment facility outpatient or inpatient care;
- civilian network costs: \$12 for outpatient visits, \$11/day for inpatient (except mental health).

If you are referred to a civilian provider for care that is not available in the military treatment facility, the civilian provider will bill the Department of Defense directly for the services you receive.

Am I Eligible For TRICARE Senior Prime?

You are eligible if you:

- are a dual-eligible beneficiary who is eligible for Medicare and for care within a military treatment facility;
- are age 65 or older;
- live in a participating military treatment facility's service area;
- agree to access covered services only through TRICARE Senior Prime; and
- have both Medicare Part A and Part B coverage.

Beneficiaries under age 65 and eligible for both Medicare and CHAMPUS are eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime, and, therefore, are not eligible to enroll in TRICARE Senior Prime.

Limited Enrollment

Enrollment in TRICARE Senior Prime is limited and applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

TRICARE Senior Prime – When Is It NOT Right for You?

TRICARE Senior Prime may not be right for you if:

- you travel extensively;
- you are enrolled in a Medicare health maintenance organization (HMO);
- you have a civilian physician and want to continue to receive care from that provider.